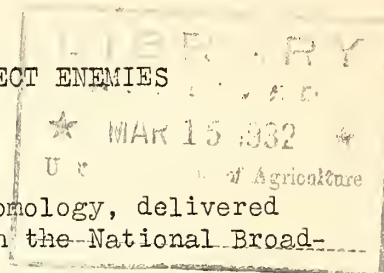


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WHAT MAY BE DONE DURING MARCH TO CONTROL INSECT ENEMIES
OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY



A radio talk by Dr. F. C. Bishopp, Bureau of Entomology, delivered through WRC and 45 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, February 24, 1932.

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Mr. Salisbury has asked me to tell you some things that you can do during March to head off some of the bugs that annoy our horses, cattle, pigs and poultry and together with the depression keep us from realizing a few dollars profit during the spring and summer.

Take first the chickens and turkeys--whether we have a big or little flock we have to fight lice and mites. Clean up the chicken houses and paint or spray the roosts and nests with the wood preserver known as carbolineum, or use creosote oil. This will get the mites and bed bugs, also the blue bug, if you live in the South where that pest occurs. Then examine your hens. You'll probably find at least a few lice. For these, use sodium fluoride either as a powder or as a dip. Don't wait till your chicks are hatched before you clean up and get rid of these pests.

Flies will soon be worrying our livestock and infesting our houses. The mild winter has been favorable to these pests. In fact, people living in the extreme south tell us horn flies and stable flies have been troublesome to cattle all winter, and the buffalo gnat, that vicious blood sucker which breeds mainly in flood waters has been attacking cattle and mules in the Mississippi Delta and elsewhere during much of January and February. The flies about barns and houses breed mainly in manure and refuse. Let's get the barnyard cleaned up and the manure scattered and plowed under. Scatter or burn butts of old straw stacks and clean up waste ensilage, and hay and straw refuse around feed racks. Flies breed by the millions in such materials. Filling holes in stables and pig pens and improving the drainage in barnyards also aid in checking fly breeding as well as improving appearance and sanitation. Fix up the screens on the milk house and dwelling, repair the fly traps if you have any. If not I'd suggest that Jack build two or three for his practice work in school. Our bulletin on fly traps will show him just how to do it.

Lice often become unbelievably abundant on cattle and horses in late winter and early spring. There are two kinds of these pests, red or biting, and blue or sucking. They irritate the livestock a great deal and reduce condition, milk flow and vitality. Dipping the animals in arsenical cattle dip is the most effective way to destroy all lice. Or you can apply this solution as a wash or spray. You may also use coal-tar-creosote and nicotine sulphate solution with success. All of these must be prepared carefully and used properly. In cold weather, dusts are advisable, though you can not rely upon dusts to kill all lice. Derris powder and fresh pyrethrum powder are effective dusts, and various mixtures of tobacco powder, naphthalene and sulphur are fairly satisfactory.

Men in the northern half of the country, can do much this month to reduce losses from the cattle grub or warble. You know these grubs under the

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skins on the backs of cattle come out during the spring and change into the heel flies that cause the cattle to raise their tails and run wildly to shade or water for protection. While many grubs have already dropped out, it would pay well to squeeze out those remaining. Or you can kill most of these pests by working derris powder or some other insecticides into the holes in the skin.

Bots reduce the condition of infested horses during spring months. If you have not had your horses treated with carbon disulphide and if you know bot flies or nose flies were numerous in your locality last summer it would be well to talk with your veterinarian about this treatment. Community action is best against these pests, but often it is well worth while for an individual farmer to have all his horses treated for bots.

We all realize how rapidly insects can multiply. Let's get the jump on them this spring. We'll be glad to send you bulletins on control of each of the pests mentioned. The facts in the bulletins may help you to increase your profits and also give your stock relief from insect annoyance. Thank you.